

Your City, Seattle

Lesbian/Gay Task Force
Charles Royer, Mayor



September 28, 1987

Dear Governor Gardner:

We want to commend you for establishing the AIDS Task Force. Such a task force is essential in order to begin responding adequately to the AIDS crisis and to begin long-range planning on a state-wide level.

We are, however, concerned that people with AIDS and/or ARC and people of color are not represented on the task force. As we've addressed the AIDS issue, we have found that the input from both of these constituents has been essential. People with AIDS and/or ARC repeatedly contribute an important personal perspective as well as educational and service-related insights that many service providers and community activists have overlooked or misunderstood.

Nationally, persons of color, (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians) are suffering from AIDS at rates disproportionately higher compared to the percentage of these persons in the general population. The main contributing factors for this increase, seems to be a lack of adequate preventative health care and a lack of effective educational programs. Because these communities are being adversely affected by AIDS, we think it is essential that they have input into planning processes which seek solutions to AIDS-related issues.

We urge you to consider appointing persons to the task force who can effectively represent these groups. If we can be of assistance to you in this process, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Mayor's Gay/Lesbian Task Force
Karen I. Fredriksen, Co-Chair

Tarl Oliason, Co-Chair